

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A video cataloger system, comprising:  
a video cataloger receiving video information and a plurality of time  
5 codes associated with the video information, and concurrently generating a  
plurality of digital metadata tracks indicative of the video information and the  
time codes; and  
a plurality of video encoders, each encoder receiving the video  
information and generating a type of encoded digital video data indicative of the  
10 video information;  
wherein the video cataloger controls the video encoders to start and stop  
encoding and stores the start time of each encoder so that the time codes  
associated with the digital metadata tracks and the stored start times permit  
selective access to the encoded digital video data.  
15
2. The system of Claim 1, wherein the video information is provided by a  
videotape deck.
3. The system of Claim 1, wherein the video information is provided by a  
20 live satellite feed.
4. The system of Claim 1, wherein the video encoders include at least one  
encoder to generate digital data encoded to an MPEG standard.
- 25 5. The system of Claim 1, wherein the video encoders include at least one  
streaming video encoder.
6. The system of Claim 1, wherein the video cataloger and the encoders  
each reside on individual computers, the computers being connected in a computer  
30 network.

7. The system of Claim 1, wherein the digital metadata tracks include one or more of the following: keyframe, close caption text, audio class, speech, speaker identification, keyword and clip.

5 8. The system of Claim 1, wherein the video information time codes are SMPTE time codes.

9. The system of Claim 1, additionally comprising:  
a digital metadata track server receiving the digital metadata tracks from the  
10 video cataloger; and  
a content server receiving the encoded digital video data from at least one of the video encoders,

wherein the system provides access to the metadata track server and the content server via a communications network to computing devices, and

15 wherein the content server receives requests from the metadata track server to send encoded digital video data to a selected one of the computing devices.

10. The system of Claim 1, wherein the video information is received from a digital source.

20 11. A method of synchronizing a plurality of digital video encoders with a video cataloger, comprising:

receiving video information at a video cataloger and at a plurality of digital video encoders;

25 commanding each of the digital video encoders to start encoding;  
storing actual start times associated with the start command for each digital video encoder at the video cataloger;

encoding the video information at each digital video encoder into a type of encoded digital video data; and

30 generating, concurrently with the encoding, digital metadata tracks indicative of the video information at the video cataloger.

12. The method of Claim 11, additionally comprising the step of accessing the encoded digital video data from one of the digital video encoders based on data located in at least one of the metadata tracks and the stored start time.

5

13. The method of Claim 11, additionally comprising repeating the aforementioned acts a plurality of times thereby generating a digital video library.

14. The method of Claim 13, additionally comprising browsing the digital video library using the digital metadata tracks as indices into the encoded digital video data.

10

15. The method of Claim 11, wherein the video information is received from a videotape deck.

15

16. The method of Claim 11, wherein the video information is received from a real-time source.

17. The method of Claim 11, wherein the video information is received from a digital videocamera.

20

18. The method of Claim 11, wherein the video information is received concurrently at the video cataloger and at the plurality of digital video encoders.

25

19. A video cataloger system, comprising:  
cataloger means for receiving video information and a plurality of time codes associated with the video information, and concurrently generating a plurality of digital metadata tracks indicative of the video information and the time codes; and

a plurality of video encoders, each encoder receiving the video information concurrently with the cataloger means and generating a type of encoded digital video data indicative of the video information;

5 wherein the cataloger means controls the video encoders to start and stop encoding and stores the start time of each encoder so that the time codes associated with the digital metadata tracks and the stored start times permit selective access via a communications network to the encoded digital video data.

10 20. The system of Claim 19, wherein the digital metadata tracks include one or more of the following: keyframe, close caption text, audio class, speech, and clip.

21. The system of Claim 19, wherein the selective access via the communications network is provided to a selected one of a plurality of client devices.

15 22. A system for synchronizing a plurality of digital video encoders with a video cataloger, the system comprising:

means for concurrently receiving video information at a video cataloger and at a plurality of digital video encoders;

20 means for commanding each of the digital video encoders to start encoding;

means for storing actual start times associated with the start command for each digital video encoder;

means for encoding the video information at each digital video encoder into a type of encoded digital video data; and

25 means for generating, concurrently with the encoding, digital metadata tracks indicative of the video information at the video cataloger.

30 23. The system of Claim 22, additionally comprising means for accessing the encoded digital video data from one of the digital video encoders based on data located in at least one of the metadata tracks and the stored start time.